



KATHLEEN VINEHOUT

STATE SENATOR

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Human Services, Insurance, and Job Creation
FROM: Sen. Kathleen Vinehout
RE: Senate Bill 142
DATE: Thursday, January 17, 2008

Thank you Senator Erpenbach and committee members for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 142. This bill requires that training for automated external defibrillators be part of the CPR training for certain health professionals.

The problem we face is that AED machines are now available in many places but not many know how to use them. We know that proper instruction helps not only develop skills but minimizes the response anxiety we all feel when responding to an emergency.

Having the machines available but not having someone adequately trained or able to administer the machine is not in the public's interest. We know AEDs save lives; but only in the hands of a trained responder.

This bill requires that AED training be a part of the required CPR training of many health professionals. The bill also requires DHFS to approve those administering the training to assure quality instruction.

I am a strong proponent of CPR training. I am a former CPR instructor and a trainer of CPR instructors. I also am here to speak today because of someone who knew CPR and saved my life after a near drowning accident.

We have AED machines available. We need to make sure that we have individuals trained to take advantage of this lifesaving intervention.

Thank you.



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41ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

SB 142: Defibrillator Training
Testimony by State Representative Joan Ballweg
Before the Senate Committee on Health, Human Services,
Insurance and Job Creation
January 17, 2008

Under current law there are specific occupations that are statutorily required to take cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The Department of Health & Family Services also requires individuals who work in certain programs licensed or regulated by the Department to complete a first aid course including CPR. Many of these individuals already receive training in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) because, generally AED training is not conducted as a separate course, but as part of the CPR certification.

Nationally, 250,000 people die of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) each year, and by having AEDs available and people trained on how to use them, as many as 50,000 of those individuals might be saved. There are four key points that enhance a victims chance of survival: Early recognition and access; early CPR; early defibrillation; and early advanced medical care. While Southeastern and Southcentral Wisconsin may be growing more and

more urbanized, the fact remains that much of Wisconsin is a rural landscape, and advance medical care is not always in close proximity. CPR and defibrillation combined together increase a victim's odds of surviving until medical personnel can arrive and transport the individual to a health care facility.

Even though the AED is automated, prior training helps the rescuer identify the signs of SCA and react. The decision to give assistance is very time sensitive, for every minute defibrillation is delayed, a victim's chance of survival decreases 10 percent.

CPR alone is usually not enough to save the life of a SCA victim. After a shock from an AED eliminates the irregular heartbeat, most hearts do not pump blood effectively for a few minutes after the shock. Chest compressions (part of the CPR process) are needed to during this time to provide blood to the heart, brain and other organs. So, the combination of these two life saving techniques enhance a victim's chance of survival.

SB 142 is a companion to AB 262 in the Assembly. During the committee process in the Assembly, we adopted a substitute amendment that

made a number of technical changes to the bill. The most important change by the substitute amendment was to clarify that the bill requires instruction in the use of an AED and not a completely separate course. The requirements for dentists and hygienists are codified in statute rather than promulgated as rules. It also directs DHFS to approve the organizations and institutions that may provide instructions in AEDs.

I hope this committee would adopt an identical amendment and that you will support SB 142. I would be happy to answer any questions now.